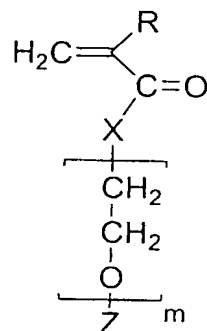


Amended claims

1. Water-swellaable sealing composition comprising a matrix formed by rubbers and a particulate material having
5 a particle diameter of from 5 to 5,000 μm distributed therein,
wherein the material comprises a crosslinked polymer composition which comprises at least one polymer in which the content of monomer units derived from nonionic
10 hydrophilic acrylates or methacrylates makes up at least 30 mol%, wherein the nonionic hydrophilic acrylates or methacrylates correspond to the general formula



- wherein R = H or a methyl group, X = O or NH, m = 3 to
15 1,000 and Z = H or a C₁-C₄-alkyl radical.

2. Sealing composition according to claim 1, wherein the rubber is vulcanized or crosslinked to form an elastomer or vulcanized rubber.
20
3. Sealing composition according to claim 1 or 2, wherein m = 5 to 200.
4. Sealing composition according to any one of claims 1
25 to 4, wherein an open-pore foam structure having a density of from 0.4 to 2 g/cm³ is present.

5. Sealing composition according to any one of claims 1 to 4, wherein the material has an average particle size of from 100 to 800 μm .
- 5 6. Use of a water-swellaable sealing composition according to any one of the preceding claims as a sealing and absorption material with respect to electrolyte-containing water during repeated wet-dry cycles.